

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 and 64-73 are pending in the application. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 33-73 from consideration.

The Examiner has further restricted claims 1-32 and asserts that there are four species in which Species I is shown in Figure 2A, Species II is shown in Figure 2B, Species III is shown in Figure 2C, and Species IV is shown in Figure 2D. The Examiner states that claims 1 and 18 are generic. Applicants agree that claims 1 and 18 are generic. However, Applicants disagree as to the classification of species.

Figures 2A and 2D are alternative embodiments of the grid section. Figure 2A, along with Figures 4-14 show the grid section with support strips 120, 122, 124, 126, and 128. Figure 2D is an alternative embodiment of the grid section, which shows the grid section with a bladder pair 160 and 162. Figures 2B and 2C show alternative embodiments of the spacing assembly of the infeed section. Figure 2B shows the spacing assembly as a side belt assembly 140 and Figure 2C shows the spacing assembly as a timing screw 150. Accordingly, the election would be directed to a choice between Figures 2A and 2D and also a choice between 2B and 2C.

In response to the Restriction, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species I, claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-19, 21, 23-32, with traverse. Applicants respectfully traverse the Election / Restriction requirement for the following reasons:

Both of the independent claims 1 and 18 are directed to the grid section, which is shown in Figure 2A. The spacing mechanism as a generic claim, is a dependent claim, which is claimed in claims 6 and 21. The two species of the spacing mechanism are then claimed in claims 7 and 22 (screw) and claims 8 and 23 (side belt assembly). Accordingly, Applicants have included claims 6, 8, 21, and 23 with the election of the Figure 2A. As such, Applicants believe that Figure 2B should also be included in the election.

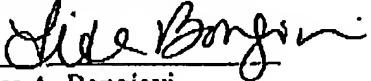
For at least this reason, the Restriction Requirement is traversed, and removal of the Requirement is respectfully requested. As always, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any issues that remain.

Consideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested. The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to this office action.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: 
Lisa A. Bongiovanni
Registration No. 48,933
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone (860) 286-2929
Facsimile (860) 286-0115
Customer No. 23413

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